

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

16 MAR. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Berlin air corridors

a. Four Soviet transport flights -- two outbound and two inbound -- are scheduled in the northern corridor today during the hours of darkness (1400-1500 Washington time) at altitudes from 6,500 to 9,500 feet.

b. Shortly after completion of their flights yesterday, the Soviets protested that Western aircraft had deliberately violated established flight procedures and endangered air safety in the corridors. They charge allied aircraft overtook Soviet transports in the same flight levels and approached inadmissibly close.

2. Guatemala

The security situation in the capital has deteriorated further as rioting continued for the third successive day and the anti-government strike spread. Police ineptness and brutality have led, as Communist instigators hoped, to growing public sympathy and active support for the original student demonstrators. The number of casualties is substantial. If the army is called in to restore order there is a chance it would take over the government itself. The Embassy, however, reports that it was reliably informed the army High Command has pledged its loyalty to Ydigoras.

3. Cuba needles us again
on Guantanamo

a. Havana has asked the Czech Embassy covering for them here to present a note of protest to the State Department over our "acts of growing and deliberate provocation" from our naval base there. They charge us with 12 incidents between 3 and 5 March and repeat their "undeniable intentions of claiming, at an opportune time and manner, and in accord with the norms of international law, the return of that portion of national territory usurped by the imperialist Government of the United States."

b. For the past two months, Cuba has stepped up its defense measures in the Guantanamo area and has been attempting to isolate the base by establishing a militarized zone around it.

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4. Laos

a. Charging the King's recent statement in support of Vientiane had modified the political situation, Souvanna yesterday asked British Ambassador Addis to join him in Khang Khay for discussions as soon as possible. Addis goes today, hoping to persuade him not to allow the King's statement to deter him from his mission to form a new government.

b. Phoumi, surrounded by his military cronies in Savannakhet, has again been told in no uncertain terms where we stand. He says he will consult his supporters and military commanders and let us know in a few days where he stands.

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5. Congo

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b. We suspect

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that Tshombé will be well off Adoula's mark.

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6. Saud's "new look" cabinet strengthens Crown Prince Faysal's hand

Yesterday's major shake-up, replacing 10 out of 13 ministers, is said to have come only after strong pressure on the King

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Faysal was named deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and his backers came up with several of the most important posts, particularly in the economic and financial fields.

NOTES

- A. Diem's mistrust of his pilots continues. Only after some prodding from us are his planes now permitted to carry napalm and anti-personnel bombs, but nothing larger.
- B. The Brazilian government suspects its navy will attempt unilateral purchase in the US of aircraft and ask us to do whatever we can to prevent any commercial deals.
- C. Algerian representatives in Tunis have urgently requested US financial assistance in repatriating Algerian refugees in Tunis and Morocco immediately after the cease-fire.
- D. anti-regime plotting by dissident Syrian junior officer groups.
- E. Resettlement of Chinese Nationalist irregulars roaming the Thai-Burma-Laos border area still drags on. The Thais now propose settling them in southwest Laos as a buffer against Communist infiltration.
- F. North Korea is moving off the fence and making clearer its sympathy for Communist China and Albania in their dispute with the USSR.
- G. Chile has permitted a Soviet delegation to attend the current Chilean Communist party congress - the first time the USSR party has been represented at such a Latin American assembly.

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

I.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE